IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Eskesen et al.

Serial No.: 09/973,082

Filed: October 10, 2001

For: COMMON CARRIER SYSTEM

Group Art Unit: 3612

Examiner: TBD

Atty. Dkt. No. 005432.00002

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, the following amendments are respectfully submitted.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 9-12 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

Prior to examination on the merits, Claims 9-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Favorable consideration of pending Claims 1-8 and 13-16 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 11, 2002